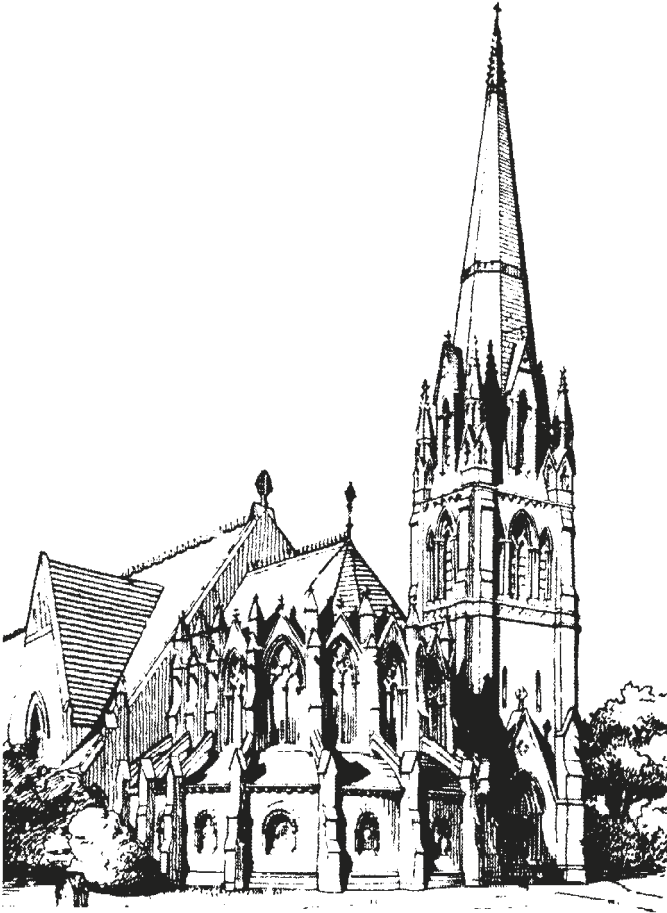


Christ Church

Morningside, Edinburgh



December 2010 & January 2011

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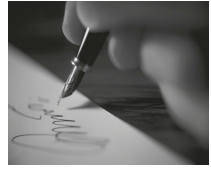
Magazine Deadline

For future magazines, material for inclusion must be sent to the Editor by the **second Sunday of each month.**

The deadline for the **February 2011** edition is **Sunday 9 January.**

Please email submissions to **magazine@6a.org.uk.** Shorter handwritten contributions and printed images for scanning should be placed in the Editor's pigeonhole at Christ Church.

The Rector's Letter



Dear Friends

IF YOU'RE HAPPY AND YOU KNOW IT.....
If you're happy and you know it, clap your hands.
If you're happy and you know it, clap your hands.
If you're happy and you know it,
And you really want to show it,
If you're happy and you know it, clap your hands.

You are no doubt very familiar with this repetitive children's folk song which stems from an old Latvian folk song. But what does it mean to be "happy"? What do we mean when we wish folk over the coming weeks a Happy Christmas or a Happy New Year? I expect we are, with the best of intentions, wishing people good health, joy and prosperity, and a trouble free time ahead.

The question I want to ask is; is happiness the same as perfection, as trouble free times, or is about something deeper? Mahatma Ghandi said, "Happiness is when what you think, what you say, and what you do are in harmony." That sounds to me like something worth striving for, but also something that does not come easily and no doubt without some cost.

Sometimes I am asked if Christ Church is a happy congregation? A good question. A trap congregations can fall into very easily is measuring the happiness of its life by how much everyone is personally pleased with everything. Well if that is the measure there cannot be a happy congregation in the land for it is an impossibility! In the life of a congregation there are several built -in traps to using this understanding of happiness as a criterion for decision making. The same is true for using complaints or their absence as a measuring stick of effectiveness! That does not mean to say individual opinions, hopes and concerns are not be taken seriously and valued, and elsewhere in this magazine you can read of ways we are introducing to further our commitment to this.

To paraphrase the words of Mahatmi Ghandi, a congregation is happy when there is a committed willingness to think, say and act in a way that helps it remain

faithful to God's calling, focusing on the vision and purpose of fulfilling the call to further God's mission and participate in Christ's ministry in and to the world. Part of that calling is of course also remaining connected and relevant to an ever changing world.

So what is my answer to the question, "Is Christ Church a happy congregation?" It is a very clear yes, not because we are perfect, not because everyone is happy all of the time, but because I believe we are struggling to shape and live out our congregational life around these aims and values.

So as I wish you all a Happy Christmas and a Happy New Year, I wish us all a "happy" life here at Christ Church as we journey together into God's future.

With all good wishes

Susan

A Suggestion Box and Q & A at Coffee Time!

You may remember the "Birthday Cards" we had in church at Pentecost when members were asked to note what they valued about Christ Church and also a wish they had.

As part of the vestry's response to the wishes we will be placing a suggestion/comment/question box at the back of church for those who may find it difficult to discuss matters directly and the appropriate person would then contact them. In addition, on the second Sunday of each month there will be an opportunity for a round table Q and A session with clergy, members of staff and office bearers at coffee time in the hall after the 10am service. So come along on the following dates and have a chat with:

January 9th	Rector and Factor
February 14th	Treasurer and Secretary
March 14th	The Warden
April 11th	Associate Priest and Director of Music

Every Week at Christ Church

Sundays

- 19.30.....Scottish Country Dancing (Church Hall)
Contact Rona Nussey (657 3208) or Church Office

Mondays

- 08.00.....Morning Prayer followed by Holy Communion
followed by silence until 9am
18.00.....Evening Prayer preceded by quiet time in church from 5.45pm
18.30.....Knit, Chat and Stitch
Contact Susan Macdonald or Jane Green

Tuesdays

- 08.00.....Morning Prayer followed by Holy Communion
followed by silence until 9am
18.00.....Evening Prayer preceded by quiet time in church from 5.45pm

Wednesdays

- 08.00.....Morning Prayer followed by Holy Communion
followed by silence until 9am
10.30.....Reflection Group in Quiet Room
Contact Gill Davidson (445 3381) or Joy Holmes (445 2092)
18.00.....Evening Prayer preceded by quiet time in church from 5.45pm

Thursdays

- 08.00.....Morning Prayer followed by Holy Communion
followed by silence until 9am
11.00.....Holy Communion (Prayer Book)
18.30.....Julian Group meets in church until 7pm
19.30.....Choir Practice
Contact Michael Green (446 9403)

Fridays

- 08.00.....Morning Prayer followed by Holy Communion
followed by silence until 9am
09.00.....Play & Praise (for children 0-5 and their carers) in Church Centre
Contact Anderson Jeremiah (228 2931)
10.00.....Garden Group (weather permitting; helpers welcome any time
between 10 and 12)
Contact Kate Houston (444 0814)

Services

See back cover for full details of services from Advent to Epiphany



Sunday Services

- 8.00 am.....Holy Communion (*said: 1929 Service*)
- 10.00 amSung Eucharist (*sung:1982 Service*)
- 6.30 pm.....Evening Service (*see below*)

Sunday Evening Services in December/January

- 5 Dec:.....Creative Space with poetry, prayer and silence in Church Centre
- 12 Dec:.....Prayer in the style of Taizé in Church Centre
- 19 Dec:.....Carol Service in Church
- 26 Dec:.....**No evening service**
- 2 Jan:.....Creative Space with poetry, prayer and silence in Church Centre
- 9 Jan:.....Prayer in the style of Taizé in Church Centre
- 16 Jan:.....Open Table - informal Communion in Church Centre
- 23 Jan:.....Sung Compline in Church Centre
- 30 Jan:.....Evening Service

Weekday Services and Times of Prayer

Monday to Friday

- 8.00 am.....Morning Prayer and Holy Communion
followed at 8.30 am by silence until 9.00 am in side chapel
Come for any or all of this time.

Monday to Wednesday

- 5.45 pm.....Quiet Time followed by 6.00 pm Evening Prayer in choir stalls.
Come for any or all of this time.

Wednesday

- 2.30pm.....CAMEO: a short communion service and tea in the centre (2nd
Wednesday of month - 8 Dec & 13 Jan)

Thursday

- 11.00 amHoly Communion (Prayer Book) on Thursdays only
- 6.30pm to 7pm.....Julian Group (contemplative prayer) in side chapel in church

Sunday

- 11.15 amTime of silent prayer in church: 15 minutes during which names
on the prayer board are offered (2nd Sun of month - 12 Dec & 9 Jan)

No weekday services Mon 27th to Fri 30th December inclusive

Copies of sermons preached at the main 10am Sunday services over the previous month are available at the back of church together with information about upcoming events.



Journeys in Faith: December 2010 to January 2011

“Preaching the Prophets in Advent”:

Sermon Series at the 10am Sung Eucharist

28th November	First Sunday of Advent	First Isaiah
5th December	Second Sunday of Advent	John the Baptist
12th December	Third Sunday of Advent	Jesus

Advent Evening Series

Wednesdays 7.30pm in the Church Centre

Starting from the 24th November 2010, and on 1st, 8th & 15th December 2010

“Faith and Reason” Viewing documentaries by Richard Dawkins followed by discussion

First Sunday Conversations

11.30am in the Church Centre, coffee from 11.15am

6th December	R.S. Thomas, priest – poet with Margaret Raven
2nd January	no meeting
6th February	“Storytelling” with Michael Williams and Dorothy Walton

Third Sunday Workshops

11.30am in the Church Centre, coffee from 11.15am

19th December	no meeting
16th January	Liturgy led by Canon Ian Paton, Old St Paul’s

Remember My Birthday?

As you well know, we are getting closer to my birthday. Every year there is a celebration in my honour and I think that this year the celebration will be repeated. During this time there are many people shopping for gifts, there are many advertisements and TV commercials, and in every part of the world everyone is talking that my birthday is getting closer and closer.

It is really very nice to know, that at least once a year, some people think of me. As you know, the celebration of my birthday began many years ago. At first people seemed to understand and be thankful of all that I did for them, but nowadays no one seems to know the reason for the celebration. Family and friends get together and have a lot of fun, but they don't know the meaning of the celebration.

I remember that last year there was a great feast in my honour. The dinner table was full of delicious foods, pastries, fruits, assorted nuts and chocolates. The decorations were exquisite and there were many, many beautifully wrapped gifts.

But, do you want to know something? I wasn't invited. I was the guest of honour and they didn't remember to send me an invitation. The party was for me, but when that great day came, I was left outside, they closed the door in my face...and I wanted to be with them and share their table. In truth, that didn't surprise me because in the last few years all close their doors to me.

Since I was not invited, I decided to enter the party without making any noise. I went in and stood in a corner. They were all drinking; there were some who were drunk and telling jokes and laughing at everything. They were having a great time. To top it all, this big fat man all dressed in red wearing a long white beard entered the room yelling Ho-Ho-Ho! He sat on the sofa and all the children ran to him, saying: "Santa Claus, Santa Claus"...as if the party were in his honour! At midnight all the people began to hug each other; I extended my arms waiting for someone to hug me and...do you know...no one hugged me. Suddenly they all began to share gifts. They opened them one by one with great expecta-

tion. When all had been opened, I looked to see if, maybe, there was one for me. What would you feel if on your birthday, everybody shared gifts and you did not get one? I then understood that I was unwanted at that party and quietly left.

Every year it gets worse. People only remember to eat and drink, the gifts, the parties and nobody remembers me. I would like this Christmas that you allow me to enter into your life. I would like that you recognize the fact that almost two thousand years ago I came to this world to give my life for you, on the cross, to save you. Today, I only want that you believe this with all your heart.

I want to share something with you. As many didn't invite me to their party, I will have my own celebration, a grandiose party that no one has ever imagined, a spectacular party. I'm still making the final arrangements. Today I am sending out many invitations and there is an invitation for you. I want to know if you wish to attend and I will make a reservation for you and write your name with golden letters in my great guest book. Only those on the guest list will be invited to the party. Those who don't answer the invitation will be left outside. Do you know how you can answer this invitation? It is by extending it to others whom you care for. I'll be waiting for all of you to attend my party this year...

See you soon,

With love,

-Jesus- (Author Unknown)

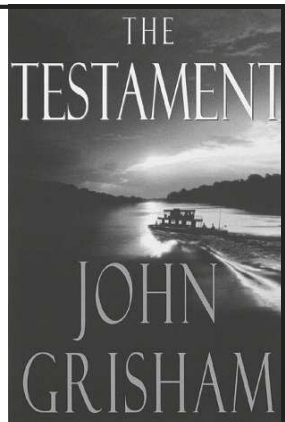
Contributed by Anderson Jeremiah

Christ Church Library

Book of the Month: *The Testament* by John Grisham.

Classic Grisham, this is the story of Troy Phelan, the 10th richest man in America; Nate O'Riley, the washed-up lawyer sent to find the beneficiary of Troy's will; and Rachel Lane, a pure-hearted missionary and the unexpected heir of Troy's fortune.

The Library is open every Sunday after the 10am Service at the back of the church.





An Advent prayer from Christian Aid

This Christmas, Christian Aid's appeal focuses on their work with displaced families around the world.

In camps on the Thailand-Burma border, in southern Sudan, in Haiti, and in many other countries, Christian Aid is providing vital assistance to people forced to flee their homes.

Advent God,
meet us as we face the darkness of the world,
and be with us as we travel towards the light
of your love.

Give us the courage to go to the dark places
of the wilderness
and listen to the voices that the world does
not hear.

Help us to stand alongside all those far
from home,
for whom hope seems distant.

Strengthen our hearts and minds
as we work for the coming of your kingdom,
with the knowledge that your light
shines in the darkness
and the darkness will never put it out.

*UK registered charity no. 1105851 Company no. 5171525
Scotland charity no. SC039150 Northern Ireland charity no.
XR94639 Company no. NI059154*

FROM THE REGISTERS



Affirmation of Holy Baptism for Confirmation and Renewal

"may they grow in grace"

21 November 2010

Confirmation

Katie Booth

Jutta Katay-Fodor

Louise Henderson

Eleanor Williams

Renewal

Imre Katay-Fodor

Funerals

"may they rest in peace"

25th October 2010

Bernard Gillard

(died 16th October)

11th November 2010

Duncan Clarkson

(died 2nd November)

Far From Home at Christmas

An Update on Our Work in Haiti



The Haiti earthquake in January 2010 left thousands of families without homes. Many of those left homeless have sought shelter with family members or friends living in rural areas in Haiti. Homes are being shared, and families devastated by the impact of the disaster are helping one another to rebuild their lives.

Christian Aid supports families forced from their homes in places as varied as the Thailand-Burma border and Sudan. This Christmas, we are asking you to give generously to support our work with people displaced by conflict or natural disasters, all over the world.

Christian Aid in Haiti

Christian Aid is working with seven partner organisations across Haiti to support vulnerable families who have lost everything following the earthquake. We are providing food and shelter for those left homeless; healthcare and counselling



Rosemund is unsure about what the future holds for herself, her children and her grandchildren. With no home and no secure income, their lives are lived tenuously. But the help of Christian Aid partner KORAL has given Rosemund hope that she and her family will be able to rebuild their lives.

for those injured and traumatised by the disaster; and we are distributing seeds and fertilizer to poor farmers, to allow them to take advantage of the planting season and provide food for their families. Thanks to your generous donations we are reaching thousands of the most vulnerable families in Haiti and giving them the support they need to rebuild their lives.

Families Reunited

When the earthquake struck, Rosemund Ernest was at home, several hours from the epicentre of the quake. Although she was so far away, she saw her home collapse. Afraid of aftershocks, she slept in the open for many nights afterwards.

A friend has now loaned Rosemund a room, which she shares with her five children and seven grandchildren, ever since they arrived from Port-au-Prince several days after the quake.

As a member of a local women's organisation, Rosemund received cash grants from Christian Aid partner KORAL, and this allowed her to buy food for her family members. 'When I received the money, it was like paradise. The cash allowed me to feed my family. I can't send them to school yet, but at least we can eat.'



Rosemund's reunion with her children and grandchildren was an emotional one. 'We were all crying; I [had] thought they were dead. I'd only spoken to one person, so I only knew they were alive when I saw them with my own eyes...I thank God that all my children are alive.'

Support our Christmas appeal, helping those far from home at Christmas

Please give to our Christmas appeal to support families forced from their homes all over the world.

£5 could pay for food for a refugee on the Thailand-Burma border for a month.

£20 could pay for materials necessary to prepare a shelter for a family on the Thailand-Burma border.

£49 could pay for one blackboard for a school in southern Sudan.

£100 could pay for a child displaced by the earthquake in Haiti to return to school, providing school fees, uniforms and books.

How to give

Online:

www.christianaid.org.uk/christmas-appeal

Text HOME to 70007. Text will cost £3, of which Christian Aid receives an average of £2.70.

Cheques: please make cheques payable to Christian Aid.

Cash: please put your donation in the appeal envelope and give it to your collection organiser.



Kayroh and family, Thailand-Burma border

Thoughts for Advent, Christmas & Epiphany

The flower of gentleness

Prayer is the flower of gentleness and of freedom from anger.

Prayer is the fruit of joy and thankfulness.

Prayer is the remedy for gloom and despondency.

Do not pray that your own will be done, for your will may not accord with the will of God. But pray as you have been taught, saying: *Thy will be done in me*. Pray to him in this way about everything - that his will be done. For he desires what is good and profitable for your soul, whereas you do not always ask for this.

Often in my prayers I have asked for what I thought was good, and persisted in my petition, stupidly trying to force the will of God, instead of leaving it to him to arrange things as he knows best. But afterwards, on obtaining what I asked for, I was very sorry that I did not pray rather for God's will to be done; because the thing turned out different from what I had expected.

What is good, except God? Then let us leave all our concerns to him, and all will be well.

If you long for prayer, renounce all to gain all.

At the time of trials and temptations, use a brief but intense prayer.

When you are in the inner temple, pray not as the Pharisee but as the publican.

Strive never to pray *against* anyone.

If when you are praying no other joy can attract you, then truly you have found prayer.

- *Evagrius of Pontus*

The divine humility

In his prose poem *Khristos* (1878), Turgenev dreams he is in a village church together with the present congregation. A man comes to stand beside him:

'I did not turn towards him, but immediately I felt that this man was Christ.'

However, when eventually he turns towards him he perceives 'a face like everyone's face. A face like all men's faces...And the clothes on him like everyone else's.'

Turgenev is astonished: 'What sort of Christ is this then?...Such an ordinary, ordinary man.'

But he concludes: 'Suddenly I was afraid - and came to my senses. Only then did I realise that it is just such a face - a face like all men's faces - that is the face of Christ.'

- *Father Sergei Hackel*

Thoughts for Advent, Christmas & Epiphany

God of Small Things

Christmas is a scandal
God becoming human!
God becoming a babel!
God becoming poor!
God of small things!

Born somewhere
Wrapped up and laid in a manger
Stripped and hang on a cross
With very few with him around

Can we fathom the depth of this
scandal?
Can we ponder like Mary?
Or proclaim like the angels?
Or dare like the shepherds to go?

To embrace the scandal of
Christmas
And to embody it in life
To live life in love
To live as the 'human-one.'

- *Author Unknown*

The fact that the omnipotent nature should have been capable of descending to the humiliated condition of humanity provides a clearer proof of power than great and supernatural miracles. His descent to our lowliness is the supreme expression of his power.

- *St Gregory of Nyssa*

From the Great Blessing of the Waters

Today the grace of the Holy Spirit in the form of a dove descended upon the waters.

Today the Sun that never sets has risen and the world is filled with splendour by the light of the Lord.

Today the moon shines upon the world with the brightness of its rays.

Today the glittering stars make the earth fair with the radiance of their shining.

Today the clouds drop down upon mankind the dew of righteousness from on high.

Today the Uncreated of his own will accepts the laying on of hands from his own creature.

Today the waters of the Jordan are transformed into healing by the coming of the Lord.

Today the transgressions of men are washed away by the waters of Jordan.

Today the blinding mist of the world is dispersed by the Epiphany of our God.

Today things above keep feast with things below, and things below commune with things above.

Today earth and sea share in the joy of the world, and the world is filled with gladness.

At thine Epiphany the whole creation sang thy praises.

- *Author Unknown*

UK & Overseas Giving Project

HealthLink360:

Whole person health care for global workers



As I entered the clinic space for HealthLink360, I was welcomed both in the warm human sense as well as by the atmosphere. The sensation I felt was one of safety, openness, faith and professionalism. The organisation's purpose is to care for the health of workers going overseas with voluntary or commercial agencies, and Christian relief or development organisations.

This is Christ Church's second year of supporting HealthLink360, so our contribution to their work this year was £900. Inke Milligan, the Practice Manager, explains that the £900 is not only put towards basic medical supplies and overhead costs of the clinic facilities, but also that funds, wherever possible, are used to help subsidise costs for workers going abroad who, though working in mission field with a mission agency, still need to pay their own medical and debriefing costs when they come to HealthLink360.

Looking to the future, Inke says: "we would like to start a fund with which we could subsidise the costing for missionaries or full time Christian workers here in UK. There are Christian workers who come regularly for counselling and support, and many find our costs, though lower than in many other places, too much for their limited income. We would love to be able to tell them that, due to local churches' and Christians' giving, we now have a fund and we can offer these services in an affordable cost."

HealthLink360 also runs the Edinburgh International Health Care Centre

travel clinic, which is open to anyone going abroad who needs medical advice and/or vacci-



nations. There are charges for this service and the funds raised support the core work of HealthLink360. If you are going abroad and wish to make use of this clinic, you can find further information at www.healthlink360.org.

As so many organisations and individuals are, HealthLink360 is at present financially squeezed. Their November prayer notes, while including thanks for a new GP volunteer joining them this month, their medical co-ordinator and for the beneficiaries of the services provided, also include prayer requests for new opportunities, perseverance in the present climate, and an ability to hear the still, small voice of God. Amen.

Martha Pollard

Pictures are of medical and counselling services at the Carberry Clinic

Gentle Yoga at Christ Church 2011



Tues 11 Jan - 8 Feb
(5 weeks for £32
or £8 per class)

Tues 22 Feb - 5 April
(7 weeks for £45
or £8 per class)

Tuesdays
1.30-3pm
Christ Church Centre

£20 for three weeks
£40 for six weeks
or £8 per class

Wear comfy clothes,
bring yoga mat & blanket

New members
welcome
I look forward to
seeing you!

Rona
tel: 657 3208
rona.nussey@btinternet.com

Caring Christmas Trees: Show you care this Christmas

“I was made redundant mid-December and lost the accommodation that came with the job. I had nowhere to go so I slept rough on scaffolding. It was absolutely freezing. Initially I was hopefully about my situation but that changed to mild panic within two days of rough sleeping. The idea of my identity and what I hoped to do disappeared and it became all about the here and now. I went to the Care Shelter because I was desperate. I was so relieved to find somewhere safe and warm; it was the turning point for me. Getting help from Bethany came at just the right time.” Carl

This is Carl’s story. He is one of around 1,000 homeless people who came to Bethany’s Care Shelter for support last winter. This vital overnight shelter for rough sleepers provides a hot meal, bed for the night and advice and encouragement to help people overcome their homelessness problems.

The Care Shelter service costs £110,000 to run for 5 months over the winter and to help raise some of these funds, Bethany is selling Caring Christmas Trees.



For the cost of one Christmas tree Bethany provides hot food, a bed for the night and support for a rough sleeper.

Show you care this winter and support Bethany’s Caring Christmas Trees project.

ORDER DEADLINES :

06 DECEMBER FOR PICK-UP ON 10/11 DECEMBER

13 DECEMBER FOR PICK-UP ON 17/18 DECEMBER

Please consider buying a Caring Christmas Tree this Christmas to help with the funding of this vital service for homeless people sleeping rough in Edinburgh.

Visit www.caringchristmastrees.com, or phone 0845 111 8733

Have you ever met a story-teller?

"Met?" Well, more than that; have you ever genuinely "engaged" with a story-teller?

Now's your chance on Sunday 6th February 2011 during the 10am service and afterwards in the Church Centre as part of our First Sunday in the month events.

Michael Williams will tell us how he came to turn away from a career that he loved to commit himself whole-heartedly to working as a full time story-teller.

And what story will he tell us?

Who knows?

But, this I know, we shall be part of the choice.

And that's at the heart of story-telling.

It is **a happening**.

Sure, we shall no doubt ponder together, maybe ask questions because after all this is the Sunday in the month for Conversation.

I have loved having stories told to me both as an adult as well as a child and, on a few occasions have loved telling a story. Yes, it could be said to have been a passion all my life and I have only just realised that!

Awareness, of anything really significant, often takes a long time to awaken! For many of us anyway, don't you think?

Michael comes to speak with us on how he became aware, to support my passion and to gather us round for a story. Relax! Sink into it.

Dorothy Walton

Scottish Country Dancing



Sundays 7.30 – 8.45pm
in the Church Hall

Sun 16 Jan – 6 Feb
(4 weeks for £16 or £5 per class)

Sun 27 Feb – 27 March
(5 weeks for £20 or £5 per class)

Teacher: Helen Maxwell

Musician : Iain MacPhail
(Accordion)

Friendly, informal class, come
on your own
or with a friend

Wear flexible shoes
(e.g. gym shoes, trainers or
dancing shoes)

All welcome – beginners and
experienced dancers

To register or for further in-
formation phone
Rona 657 3208

Christ Church Walkers ('A' Group) 2011



- 3 January** Dunslair Heights* (OS sheet 73; 15km) NB Monday
Lorne MacDougall (664 2120)
- 5 February** Herring Road and Dunbar Common* (OS sheet 67; 18km)
Alan Shotter (221 0505)
- 5 March** Lowther hills** (OS sheet 78; 7 km)
Andrew Lacey (229 5612)
- 10 April** An Caisteal and Beinna'Chroin***** (OS sheets 50/56; 15km)
Timothy Horne (667 3969)
- 7 May** StobCoir'anAlbannaich**** (OS sheet 50; 10 km)
Timothy Horne (667 3969)
- 5 June** Ben Achaladair and Beinn a Chreachain***** (OS sheet 50; 17 km)
Nick Bowry (545 3600)
- 2 July** BeinnHeagarich, CreagMhor and Ben Challum*** (OS sheets 50/51)
Nick Bowry (545 3600)
- August** Speyside (details still to be arranged)
- long weekend** *Timothy Horne (667 3969)*
- 10 September** Angus glens*** (OS sheet 43/44; details still to be arranged)
Lorne Mac Dougall (664 2120)
- 1 October** Pentlands: Turnhouse Hill, Carnethy Hill; Scald Law and the Kips**
Alan Shotter (221 0505) (OS sheets 65/66; 16 km)
- 5 November** Glen Turret** (OS sheet 52; 15 km)
Andrew Lacey (229 5612)
- 3 December** Hopes reservoir circuit* (OS sheet 66; 16km)
Alan Shotter (221 0505), Followed by Christmas dinner

Please contact the named organiser by the preceding Thursday so that transport can be arranged. As always, there may be pragmatic changes to reflect weather, unforeseen clashes with other events etc etc. Distances are indicative only and will vary depending on the route. Subjective and approximate difficulty: * easy ; ** moderate; *** moderate but long; **** hard; ***** hard and long.

New walkers are very welcome. Please contact Andrew Lacey (229 5612) or Timothy Horne (667 3969)

Bob the Builder Group

If you are interested in helping out with small odd jobs around the church and grounds as part of a new group, please come along to **Inca** in Bruntsfield Place for a drink and an explanatory chat to see how this group can be developed on **Monday 17 January 2011** at **7pm**. Help on an occasional or regular basis would be much appreciated.

If you are interested in coming along to see if you can offer your help in becoming 'Bob the Builder' but cannot come on this particular evening, please speak to Robin Morris to indicate your interest. It is hoped that one or two suitable times can be found each month to meet for coffee and undertake any necessary maintenance and other jobs.

Robin Morris

St Catharine's at Christmas

The nuns at the convent like to give their clients a Christmas dinner (though this is usually not on Christmas Day itself), so any festive goodies (within the "Use by" date) will be gratefully accepted. They also try to give each person a gift, such as a warm scarf, hat or pair of gloves or socks, so these too would be very welcome. (Gifts of this kind should, as far as possible, be new.)

The usual gifts of non-perishable food, toiletries, old towels, disposable gloves, disposable razors, etc, etc are of course always welcome and appreciated.

I would like to thank everyone who has supported the convent's Project for the Homeless by giving donations of food, etc during the past year, and also the drivers who take the gifts to the convent. All these efforts are very much appreciated by the recipients.

Joy Holmes



**Join the
Carol singing
at the Royal
Edinburgh
Hospital**

**Early Evening
Tuesday 14th
December
no under 18s**

**Please contact
Michael Green
music@6a.org.uk
446 9403**

**Light the Light on the Tree of Remembrance
Charlotte Gardens, 6th December 2010
(in aid of St Columba's Hospice)**

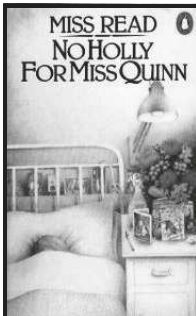
For many the festive season can bring both joy and sadness. This is especially true for those who remember those who are unable to be with us, for whatever the reason. *Light the Light* gives us the opportunity to celebrate their lives, to embrace our memories of them at a time of year when we often miss them the most.

The lighting of the tree ceremony at 6.30pm will be followed this year by a Candlelight Christian service in St John's Church at the West End. This will be led by Michael Paterson who is now the Hospice Chaplain. He will be accompanied by the choir at St John's who will sing excerpts from Faure's *Requiem*, in memory of one of their congregation, a choir member who died in the Hospice this year.

If you would be interested in *lighting a light* in memory of a loved one, please feel free to take one of the leaflets at the back of church/ in the church centre.

Equally if you just want to come along to St John's at 6.30 you are most welcome.

Joan Adam



Christ Church Morningside Book Club

On Tuesday 7 December at 7.30pm, we plan to meet to discuss *No Holly for Miss Quinn* by Miss Read at 31 Comiston Drive - contact telephone 447 6535.

There will be no meeting in January.

The book to be read for the February meeting is *The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo* by Steig Larsson.

Thank You

Two years ago, Duncan and I moved from Yorkshire to Edinburgh, to be close to our daughter, when it became clear that his health was deteriorating. I had previously been an occasional communicant at Christ Church when we were visiting Helen and her family, so I continued to worship with you when I was able to.

Not many people will have known either my face or my name, until it appeared in the notice sheet announcing Duncan's death, because I am an 8 O'clocker. I joined the Knit, Chat and Stitch group and later the Scottish Country Dance Group, at both of which I have been made most welcome, in spite of my forgetfulness about polite turns and dance sequences.

Since Duncan's death on November 2nd, I have been overwhelmed by the support I have received from those whom I have met since we came. Susan conducted the Crematorium service and converted the information we gave her into a splendid appreciation of his life. Thank you to Susan and to all those of you who have helped us and prayed for us, both before and after Duncan's death.

Janet Clarkson

Thank You

I want to record my sincere thanks to everyone who offered hospitality to Father Emmanuel and supported and encouraged me in planning and coordinating his stay at Christ Church. Thank you for your generosity, especially with your time, for your patience with me when arrangements had to be changed at short notice, for the spontaneity of your offers and for the prayers which I know you were offering for the project.

Jennie Ritchie

Blackboard Blunders

Our children mean well and they try hard - at least most of the time - but sometimes a misheard phrase or misspelt word can turn school essays into a classroom comedy of errors.

Richard Benson has compiled the funniest of these howlers for a new book. But before you give this selection zero marks out of ten, just remember that you were young once . . .

HISTORY

SOMETIMES IN THE WAR THEY TAKE PRISONERS AND KEEP THEM AS OSTRIGES UNTIL THE WAR IS OVER. SOME PRISONERS END UP IN CONSTERPATION CAMPS.

HISTORY

In wartime children who lived in big cities had to be evaporated because it was safer in the country.

RELIGIOUS STUDIES

A mosque is a sort of church. The main difference is that its roof is doomed.

MATHS

If it is less than 90 degrees it is a cute angel.

MATHS

The total is when you add up all the numbers and a remainder is an animal that pulls santa on his sley.

RELIGIOUS STUDIES

I asked my mum why we said old men at the end of prayers at school, I don't know any old men apart from grandpa.

GEOGRAPHY

The closet town to France is Dover. You can get to France on a train or you can go on a fairy.

THE ARTS

... and at the end of the show
we all sing away in a manager.

THE ARTS

In last year's ~~prats~~ Christmas concert,
Linzi played the main prat. I played
one of the smaller prats and I would
like to have a bigger prat this year.

NATURAL HISTORY

Crabs and creatures like them all belong to a
family of crushed Asians.

RELIGIOUS STUDIES

If you marry two people you are a
pigamist, but morons are allowed to
do this.

MATHS

I would like to be an accountant
but you have to know a lot
about moths.

SCIENCE

Helicopters are cleverer than
planes. Not only can they fly
through the air they can also
hoover.

HISTORY

Then Joan of Ark met her end.
She was burned as a steak.

GEOGRAPHY

In geography we learned that countries
with sea round them are islands and
ones without sea are incontinents.

GEOGRAPHY

In Scandinavia, the Danish people
come from Denmark, the Norwegians
come from Norway and the
Lapdancers come from Lapland.

Contributed by Hilary Vandore

Christmas Charities 2010

This year the cash collections from our Christmas services* will be divided equally among the following charities:

Health in Mind is a charity promoting positive mental health and wellbeing in Scotland. Originally known as the Edinburgh Association for Mental Health, the charity was set up in 1982 and is now well respected and established organisation working in the Borders, Mid and East Lothian and Edinburgh and offering a wide range of services. More information can be found at www.health-in-mind.org.uk

Aberlour is the largest, solely Scottish, children's charity and providing help to over 6000 of Scotland's most vulnerable children, young people and their families each year. The charity, has adapted and customised its services in response to the changing needs of vulnerable children, young people and their families over the 135 years since the Aberlour orphanage was established in 1875. For more on the history and current work of Aberlour visit www.aberlour.org.uk

Bethany Christian Trust is a Homeless Charity based in Edinburgh, which also deals with Addiction issues. Bethany provides a variety of services to stop people being homeless and stop people becoming homeless and over the winter months also provides a nightly care shelter for rough sleepers. For more information visit www.bethanychristiantrust.com

*Carol Service 6.30pm on Sunday 19th December

Christmas Eve 5.00pm Children's service and 11.30pm Midnight Eucharist

Christmas Day 9.00am Holy Communion and 11.00am Eucharist with carols

The cash collection at the 11.00am United Service with Morningside United Church on Sunday 26th December will be donated to **Christian Aid**.



Advent and Christmas 2010

- Sun 28 November** 8.00amHoly Communion
Advent Sunday 10.00amSung Eucharist (*followed by Annual General Meeting in the Hall*)
6.30pm.....Advent Procession – a candlelit service of music and readings with the Choir
- Sun 5 December** 8.00am.....Holy Communion
Second Sunday of Advent 10.00amSung Eucharist
6.30pm.....Creative Space – a service of music, readings and silence in the Centre
- Sun 12 December** 8.00am.....Holy Communion
Third Sunday of Advent 10.00amSung Eucharist
6.30pm.....Taize Service in the Centre
- Sun 19 December** 8.00am.....Holy Communion
Fourth Sunday of Advent 10.00amSung Eucharist with Young Church Nativity followed by decoration of Christmas Tree
6.30pm.....Carol Service (*followed by refreshments in the Hall*)
- Fri 24 December** 8.00am.....Morning Prayer and Holy Communion
Christmas Eve 5.00pm.....Children's Christmas Eve Service (*followed by refreshments in the Hall*)
11.30pm.....Midnight Eucharist
- Sat 25 December** 9.00am.....Holy Communion
Christmas Day 11.00amSung Eucharist with Carols
- Sun 26 December** 8.00am.....Holy Communion
First Sunday after Christmas **No 10am Service**
11.00amJoint Service at Morningside United Church
No evening service
- Sun 2 January** 8.00am.....Holy Communion
The Epiphany 10.00amSung Eucharist with Baptism
6.30pm.....Creative Space – a service of music, readings and silence in the Centre